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Note for Contributors:

Systems Engineering is the application of the Systems Approach; it is the use of systems ideas to tackle the complex problems which arise in organisations of all kinds. In situations where objectives can be defined, it is concerned with the efficient use of resources so that the individual sub-systems can be designed, fitted together, checked and operated to achieve the overall objectives in the most efficient way. Even if objectives can not be defined, Systems Engineering still provides a useful way of structuring the analysis of complex problems so that improvements can be suggested to those involved in operating the system—the only people who can ultimately decide what changes can be implemented. Thus, the Systems Approach can provide a framework for structuring the debate about change.

There are several journals concerned, on the one hand, with developments in the modelling of systems, and on the other, with General Systems Theory. It is not the intention to compete for material with these journals. The *Journal of Systems Engineering* attempts to strike a balance between publishing papers which are concerned with developing systems concepts and methodologies for structuring and helping to solve real-world problems and papers which present applications of systems concepts to such problems. Authors should bear in mind that the readership of the *Journal* is much wider than professional management scientists and systems experts and includes managers and planners at all levels in government and industry.

Papers may be sent to the Coordinating Editor, the Executive Editors or the Publishing Editor. All authors will be provided with 50 free reprints of their paper and may order extra copies at favourable rates.

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